

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 AID-05 /084 W

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R 300440Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2038

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10416

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA, CB, VN, CH

SUBJ: THAI DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON SE ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: MID-LEVEL THAI DIPLOMAT EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US THAT THAILAND IS NEXT AND HIGHLY VULNERABLE TARGET FOR NORTH VIETNAMESE-INSTIGATED INSURGENCY AFTER HANOI GAINS FULL DOMINANCE IN INDOCHINA. A CLOSE FRIEND OF LAO DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO, THE THAI CLAIMS LAO AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO, THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF KING SAVANG, IS FEARFUL OF RETURNING TO LAOS AND HAS INDICATED KING SAVANG ALSO WILL NOT RETURN FOLLOWING HIS TRIP TO PARIS. FINALLY, A SECRET LETTER RECEIVED FROM DOCTOR IN PHNOM PENH DESCRIBES SITUATION IN KHMER AS "MAD AND DANGEROUS." END SUMMARY.

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1. THAI EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY CHINDA ATTANAN (POLITICAL) EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL CONCERN TO EMBOFF, OVER FUTURE OF INDOCHINA AND DANGERS TO THAILAND IN NEW SITUATION IN SE ASIA. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAILAND'S STRENGTHS, HISTORICAL RESILIENCE, AND DIFFERENCES FROM CONDITIONS IN INDOCHINA STATES, CHINDA SAID THAILAND NEVERTHELESS COULD "FALL LIKE A HOUSE OF CARDS" IF THOROUGHGOING SOCIAL REFORM WERE NOT UNDERTAKEN. EVEN THOUGH KUKRIT GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED, ACCORDING TO CHINDA, CURRENT RTG REPRESENTS THE SAME THAIL ESTABLISHMENT AS DID THE THANOM REGIME. RTG HAS VERY SHORT TIME TO REFORM THAI SOCIETY AND CHINDA SEES LITTLE THAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR TO INDICATE KUKRIT HAS THE WILL OR FARSIGHTEDNESS TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN TIME.

2. GREATEST EXTERNAL THREAT TO THAILAND IS HANOI. CHINDA IS CONVINCED THAT HANOI WILL EXERCISE PRE-DOMINANT INFLUENCE IN KHMER AS IT ALREADY DOES IN LAOS. FIGHTING BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND KHMER IS EVIDENCE OF RESISTANCE BY KHMER, BUT CHINDA BELIEVES HANOI WILL QUICKLY GAIN UPPER HAND. INDOCHINESE FEDERATION IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME. CHINDA EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT PATHET LAO SEEM WILLING TO TURN CONTROL OF LAOS OVER TO HANOI BUT ASSERTED, "THEY ARE ALREADY DOING SO." THAILAND IS NEXT TARGET FOR HANOI'S SUBVERSION AND CHINDA CLEARLY DOUBTS THAIS WILL RESIST. CHINDA READILY ADMITTED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF KUKRIT'S VISIT TO CHINA WAS TO GAIN PEKING'S SUPPORT IN RESTRAINING HANOI. "THAT IS OUR ONLY HOPE," CHINDA COMMENTED.

3. TURNING TO LAOS, CHINDA NOTED THAT FIVE LAO AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN CALLED HOME, INCLUDING H.R.H. TIAO KHAMHING, VIENTIANE'S AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AND YOUNGER BROTHER OF KING SAVANG VATTHANA. CHINDA, WHO IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF LAO DIPLOMATS HERE, SAIDAMB TIAO PLANS TO STOP OFF IN BANGKOK ENROUTE HOME AND PERHAPS STAY THERE FOR SOME TIME TO "WAIT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SEE" HOW SITUATION IN LAOS DEVELOPS. AMB TIAO IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS, AND HAS APPARENTLY TOLD CHINDA THAT KING SAVANG, LIKE PM PHOUMA, WILL NOT RETURN TO LAOS FROM HIS TRAVELS. FEARFUL OF DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS, KING SAVANG WILL REMAIN IN PARIS, ACCORDING TO CHINA.

4. ASKED, CHINDA RESPONDED WITH SEEMING RELUCTANCE

BUT CERTITUDE THAT THE PGNU WANTS THE US OUT OF  
LAOS TOTALLY.

5. CHINDA SAID A FORMER GKR DIPLOMAT (AND FRIEND)  
SECRETLY RECEIVED A LETTER RECENTLY FROM HIS  
BROTHER-IN-LAW, A DOCTOR IN A HOSPITAL IN PHNOM  
PENH. DOCTOR DESCRIBED SITUATION IN KHMER AS  
"MAD AND DANGEROUS" AND STRONGLY ADVISED HIS BROTHER-  
IN-LAW, THE DIPLOMAT, NOT TO RETURN UNDER ANY  
CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDLESS OF ANY ASSURANCE FOR HIS SAFETY HE  
MIGHT RECEIVED FROM GRUNK REPS. DOCTOR SAID ANYONE  
CONNECTED WITHFORMER REGIME WAS IN DANGER OF BEING  
EXECUTED. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HIGHLY TRAINED  
PERSONNEL SUCH AS DOCTORS, ELECTRIC POWER AND OTHER  
EXPERTS, HAD NOT BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH  
LIKE THE REST OF POPULATION BECAUSE THEIR SERVICES  
WERE NEEDED.

6. COMMENT: WE FIND CHINDA'S COMMENTS ON DANGERS  
TO THAILAND INTERESTING BECAUSE THEY ARE MARKEDLY  
MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN ASSESSMENTS ABOUT THAILAND'S  
STRENGTH MADE BY THE FONOFF AND OTHER ASEAN  
DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO. MORE CONFIDENT MOOD IN BANGKOK  
FOLLOWING PM KUKRIT'S VISIT TO PEKING (BANGKOK 14812)  
SEEMINGLY HAS NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THAI DIPLOMATS  
ABROAD. WE SEE NO REASON TO DOUBT CHINDA'S REMARKS  
ABOUT AMBASSADOR TIAO'S PLANS BUT COMMENT ON KING'S  
PLANS COULD BE SPECULATION ONLY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSURGENCY, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TOKYO10416  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THAI DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON SE ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: MID-LEVEL THAI DIPLOMAT EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, LA, CB, VN, CH, US, (SAVANG VATTHANA), (CHINDA ATTANAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006